

Climate Outlook and Summary For the Central United States For the February-March-April 2013 Climate Season

Prepared by Mike Baker, Climate Services Focal Point
National Weather Service, Boulder, Colorado - BOU

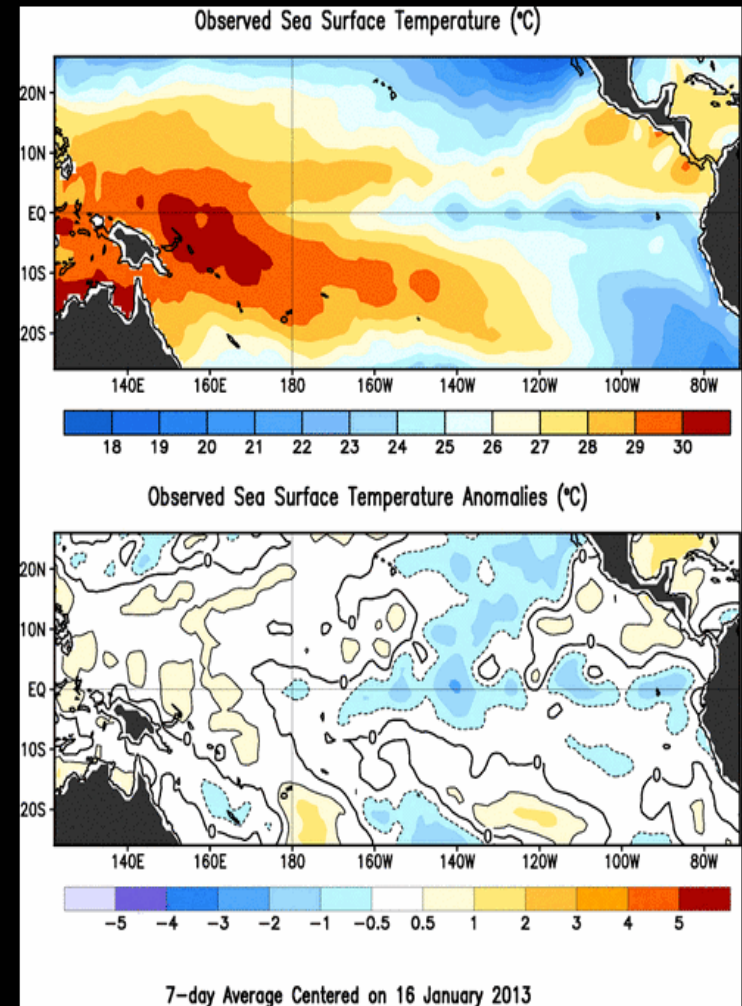
January 25, 2013

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Pacific Ocean Sea Surface Temperatures As of Mid-January 2013

ENSO-neutral conditions continue in the tropical Pacific Ocean even though equatorial sea surface temperatures east of the International Date Line have recently become colder than average. This anomalous cooling is partially due to an active Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) in the western Pacific which has strengthened the easterly trade winds and as a consequence has enhanced the upwelling of colder deep ocean waters along the west coast of South America.



Niño Region SST Departures (C) for Mid-January 2013

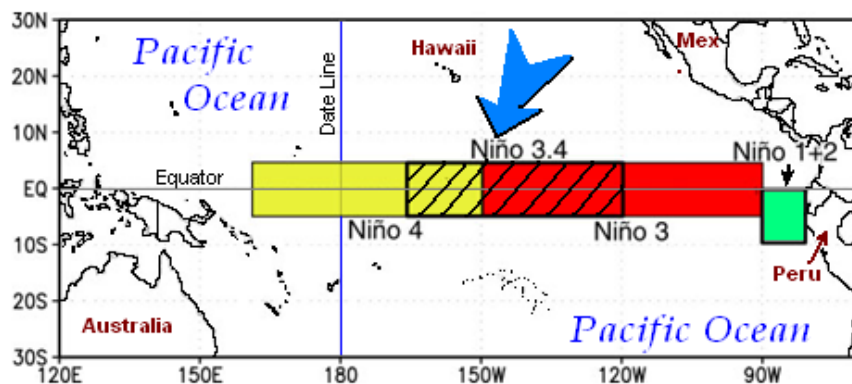
The latest weekly SST departures are:

Niño 4 -0.2 C

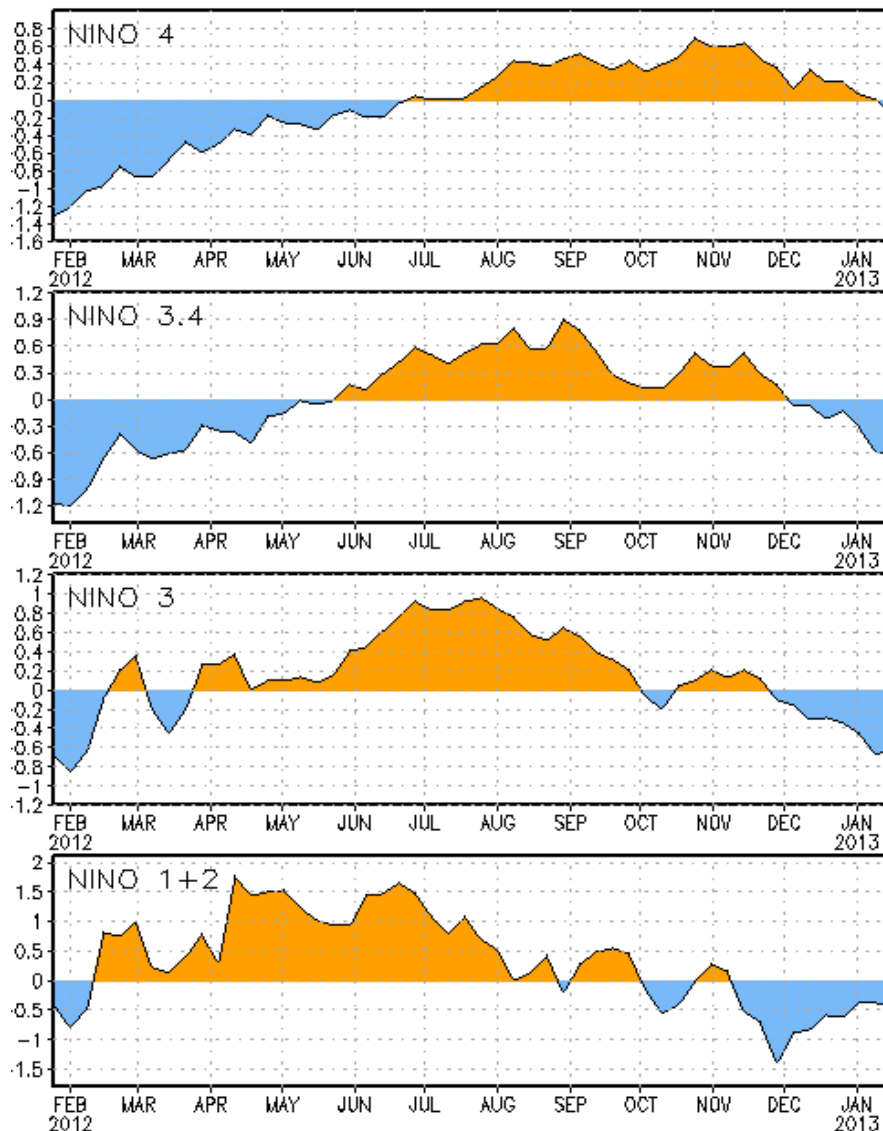
Niño 3.4 -0.6 C

Niño 3 -0.6 C

Niño 1+2 -0.4 C

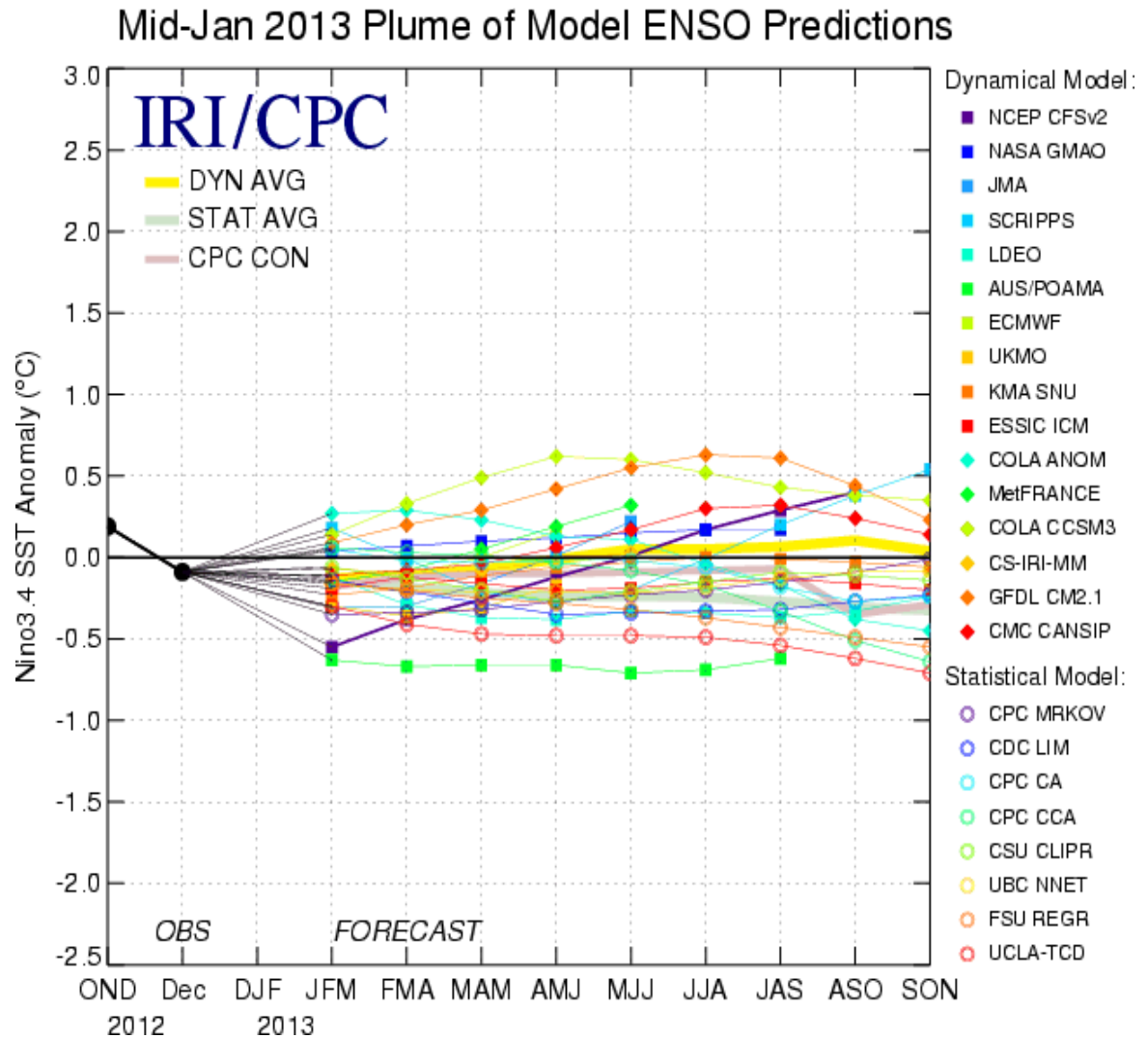


SST Anomalies



ENSO Model Predictions

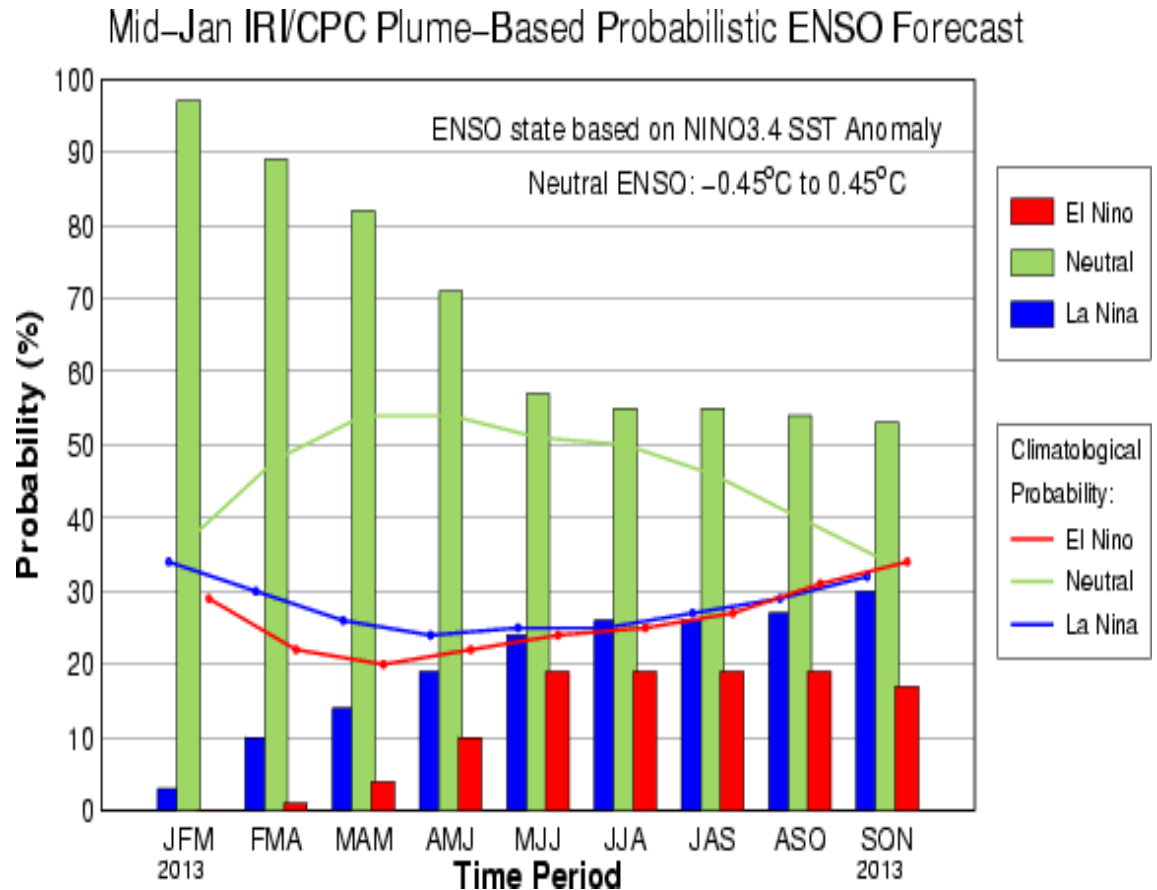
A majority of ENSO dynamical and statistical model forecasts of Niño 3.4 SST anomalies are clustered around 0°C (-0.45°C to 0.45°C) through at least the summer of 2013. This is an indication of ENSO-neutral conditions in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.



ENSO Model Probabilities as of Mid-January 2013

There is approximately a 55 percent probability of ENSO-neutral conditions this spring and about a 55 percent chance during the summer of 2013.

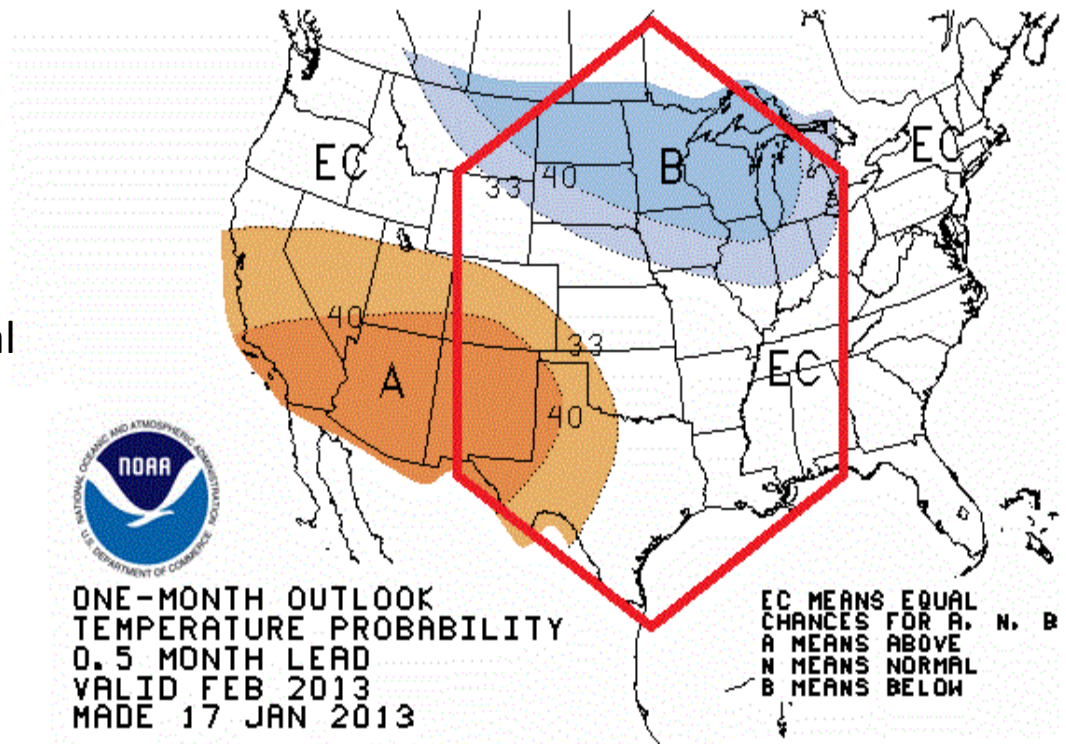
Models also indicate increasing chances of a La Niña developing this fall.



One Month Temperature Outlook For the Central United States

Based on ENSO-neutral conditions there are enhanced chances for below average temperatures across the northern Plains, Upper Midwest and Great Lakes regions. There are also enhanced chances for above average temperatures for the central and southern Rocky Mountain regions and the southern Great Plains. For the rest of the central U.S., there are equal or undeterminable chances for above, below and near average temperatures during February.

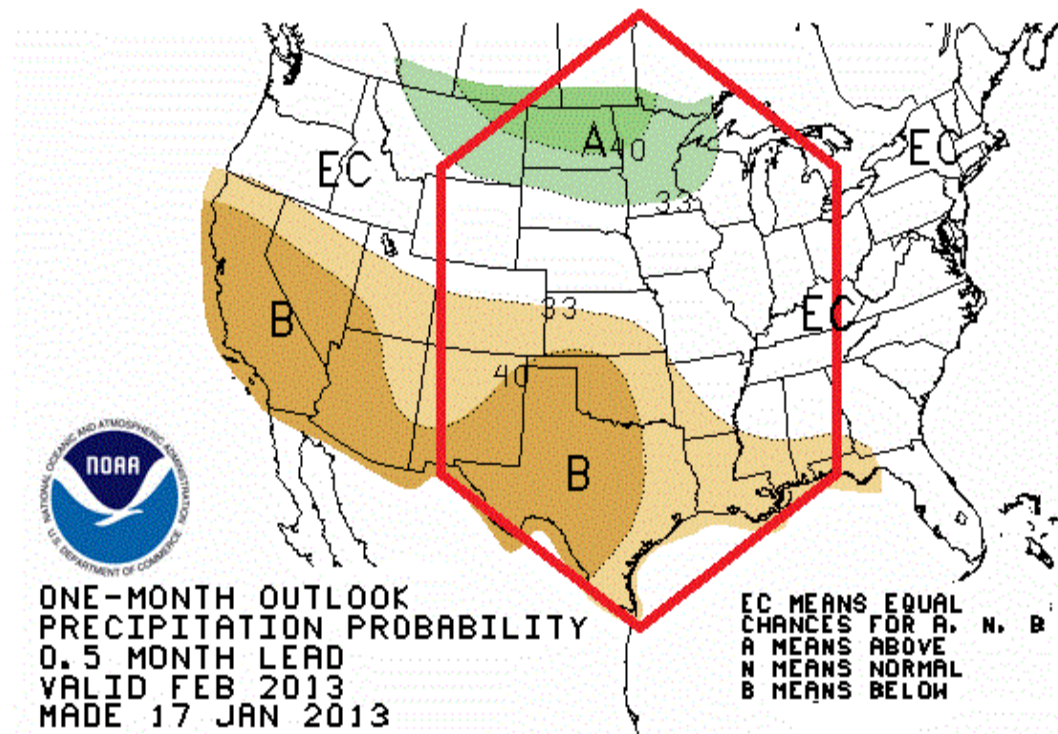
This forecast is based on dynamic models and statistical indicators.



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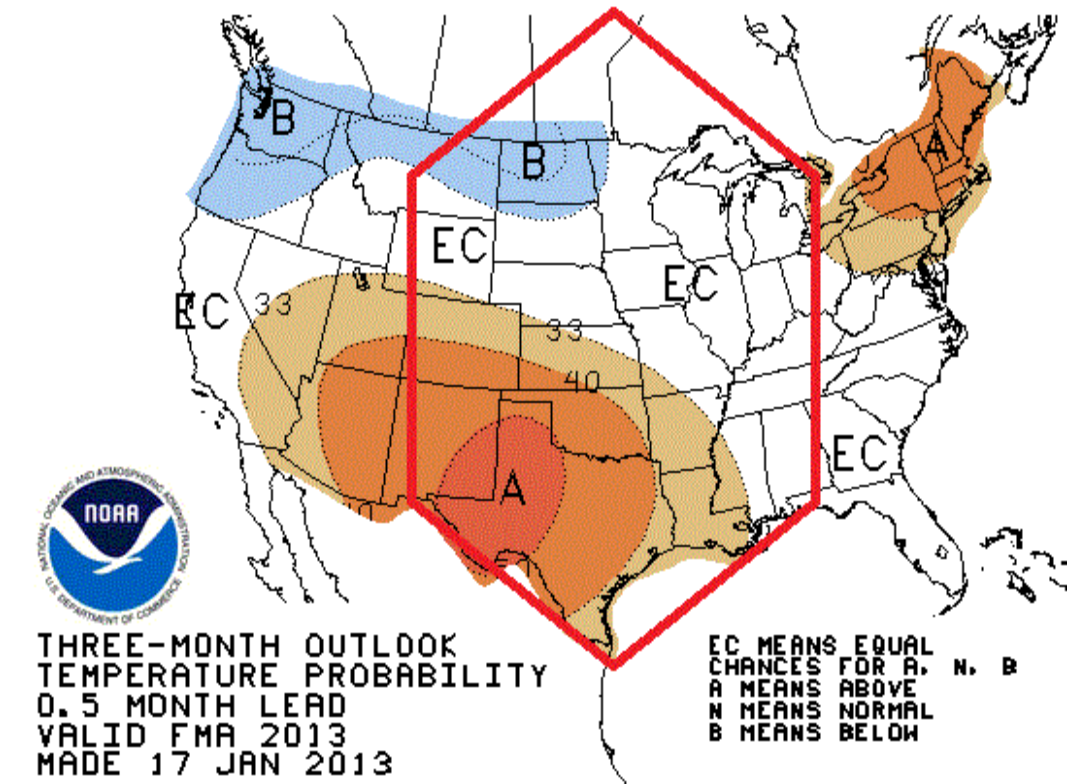
One Month Precipitation Outlook for the Central United States

There are enhanced chances for above average precipitation across the northern Great Plains, and enhanced chances for below average precipitation over the southern Great Plains and lower Mississippi River Valley. For remaining portions of the central U.S., the outlook calls for equal or undeterminable chances for above, below and near average precipitation during February.



Three Month Temperature Outlook For the Central United States

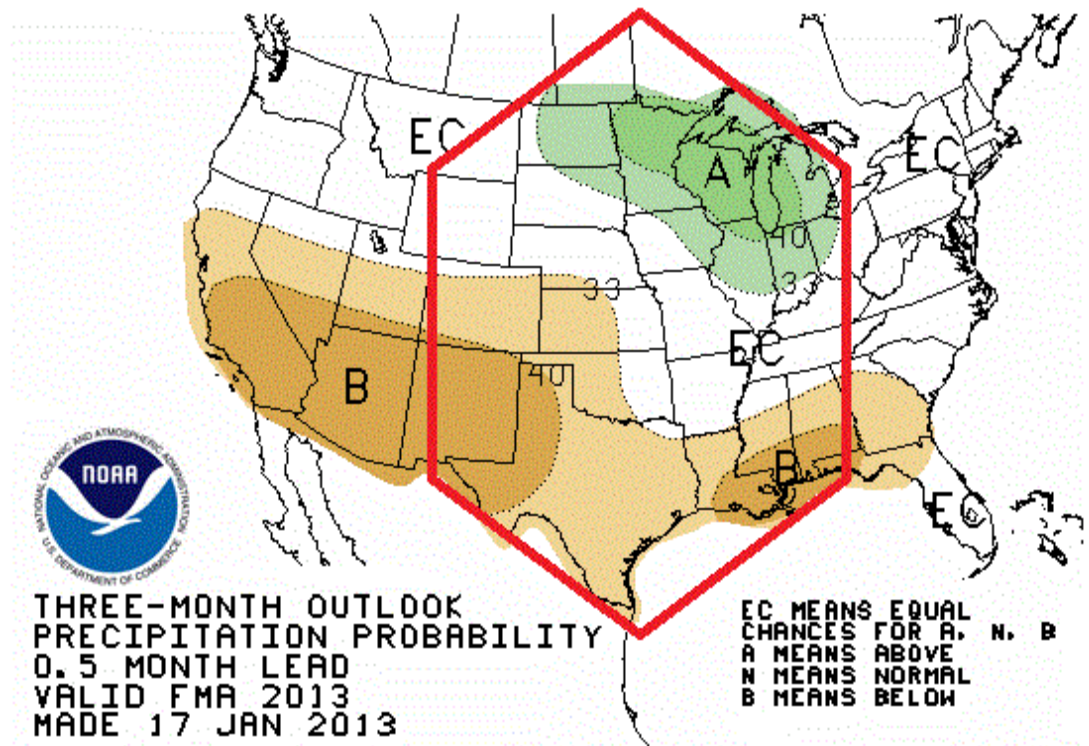
For the three month climate season of February, March and April of 2013, the outlook from CPC calls for enhanced chances of below average temperatures for the far northern Great Plains. The outlook also calls for enhanced chances of above average temperatures from Colorado and Kansas southward across New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana. Elsewhere in the central U.S., there are equal or undeterminable chances for above, below and near average temperatures for this three month period.



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Three Month Precipitation Outlook For the Central United States

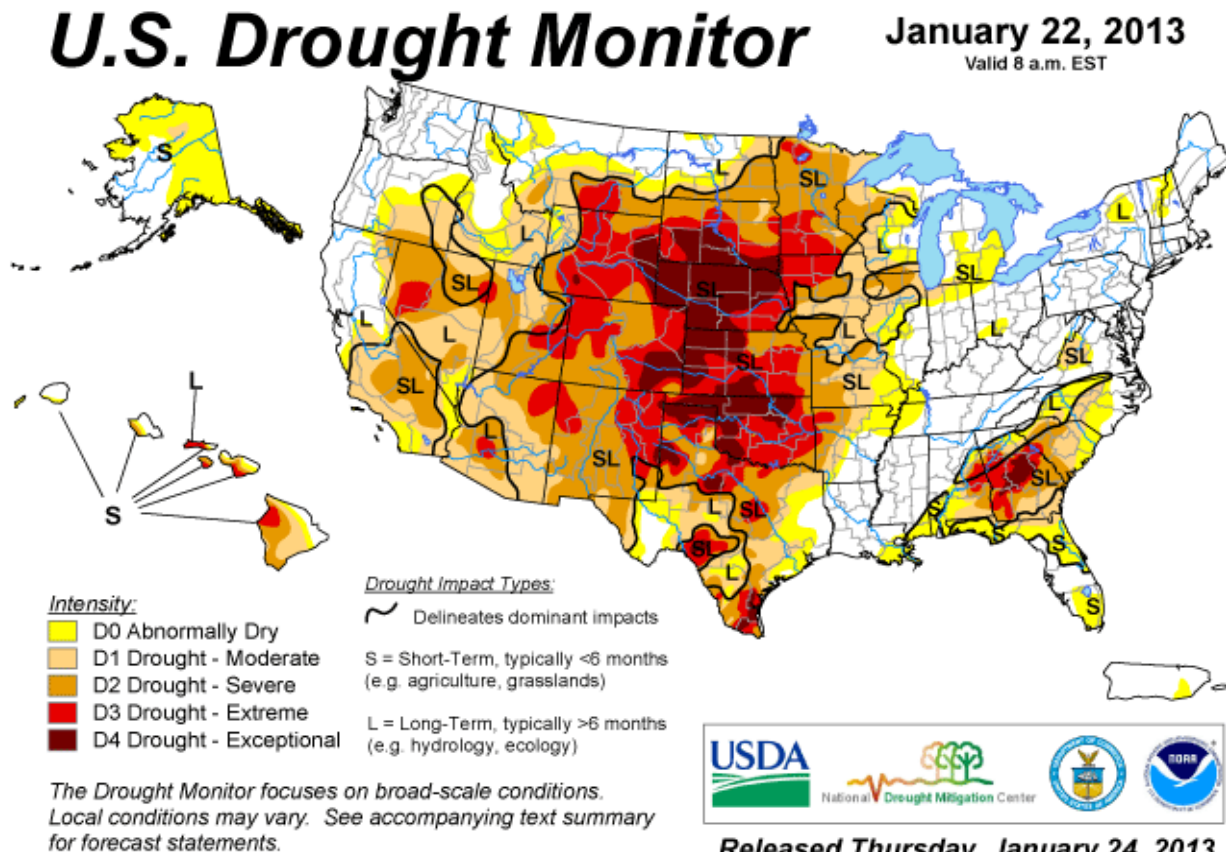
For the period February through April of 2013, the latest outlook calls for enhanced chances of above average precipitation for the northern Plains, the upper Midwest and Great Lakes regions centered on northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and western Michigan. The outlook also calls for enhanced chances of below average precipitation from Colorado and western Kansas, southward across Texas and eastward along the Gulf coast. For the rest of the central U.S., there are equal or undeterminable chances for above, below and near average temperatures for this three month period.



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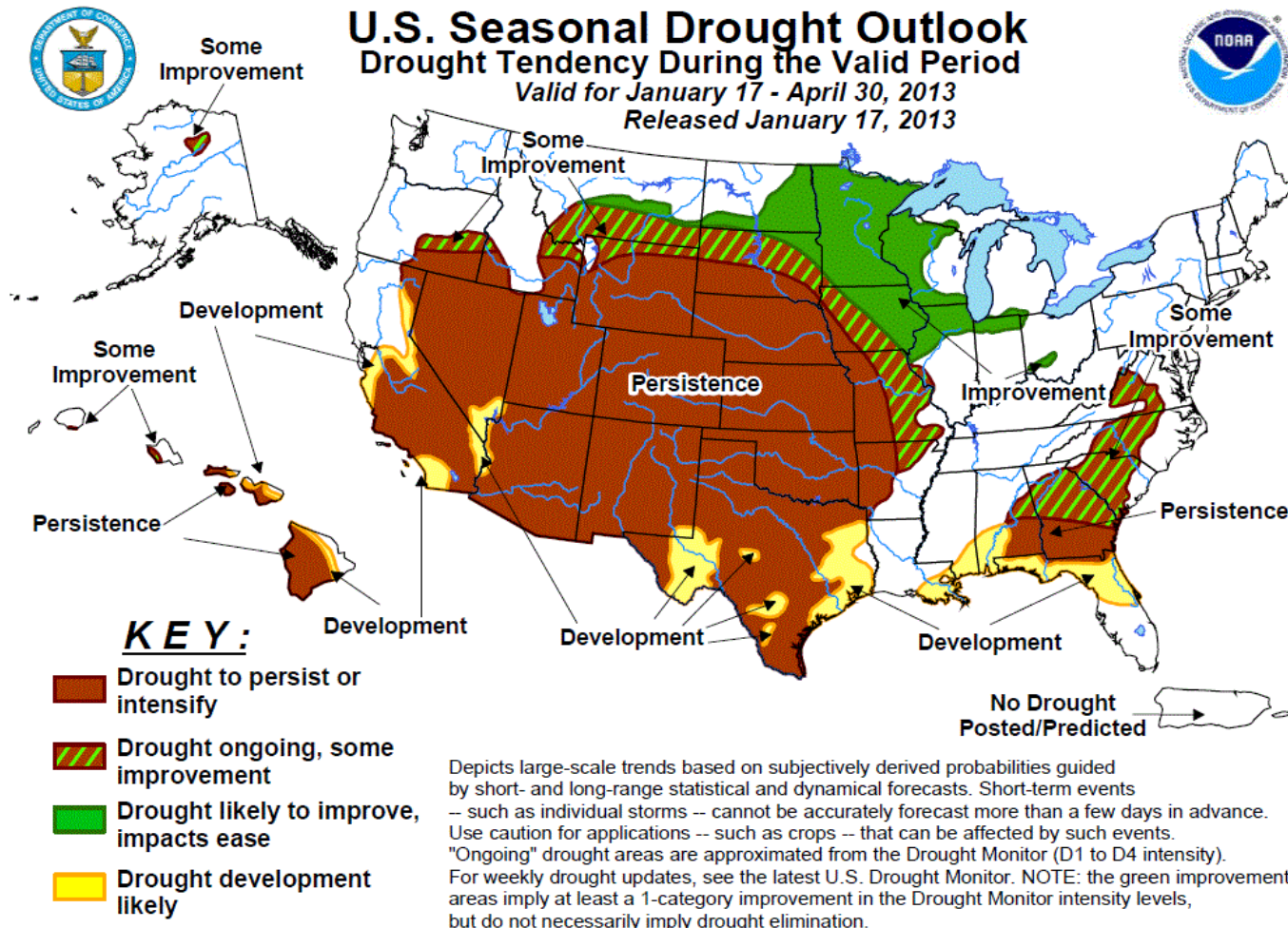
Drought Conditions For the Central United States

The most recent Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates a wide swath of extreme to exceptional drought conditions across the central United States. Central states hardest hit by drought conditions at this time include South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.



Seasonal Drought Outlook For the Central United States

The most recent Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates much of the Great Plains from the Dakotas south to Texas, and from Missouri west to the Rockies will continue to experience drought conditions at least through April of this year. Whereas, some improvement is expected on the northern and eastern fringes of this area, with improvement likely for eastern North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, northern Illinois, much of Iowa and northern Indiana.



The following links show some of the ENSO composites that were used to make these forecasts.

CPC ENSO Box & Whisker Analysis:

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/ENSO/box_whiskers/index.php

El Nino and La Niña-Related Winter Features over North America:

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/ENSO/composites/EC_LNT_index.shtml

Winter Composites:

http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensocycle/nawinter.shtml

El Nino – Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Indicators:

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/MJO/enso.shtml>